



# REPORT

OF THE

## BOARD OF CHILDREN'S GUARDIANS

OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA,

For the Year Ending March 31, 1893.





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### MEMBERS OF THE BOARD.

REV. NATHANIEL A. HYDE.      MRS. JULIA H. GOODHART.  
MR. CHARLES MARTINDALE.    MRS. ANNA C. REAUME.  
MR. FRANK W. FLANNER.      MRS. LUCY McD. MILBURN.

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### OFFICERS.

PRESIDENT, REV. NATHANIEL A. HYDE.  
SECRETARY, MRS. KATE F. PARKER.  
TREASURER, MRS. JULIA H. GOODHART.

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ATTORNEY FOR THE BOARD, MR. CLINTON L. HARE.

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VISITING AGENT, MR. J. FRANK WRIGHT.

SPECIAL OFFICER, MR. ALBERT C. ELSTER.

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OFFICE OF THE BOARD, ROOM NO. 1, PLYMOUTH BUILDING, INDIANAPOLIS.

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1893.



REPORT  
OF THE  
BOARD OF CHILDREN'S GUARDIANS  
OF MARION COUNTY  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 1893.

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*To the Hon. Edgar A. Brown, Judge of the Marion Circuit Court:*

This Board has now reached the close of the fourth year of its history. It has been before the public long enough to afford opportunity to form a just estimate of the character, the need and the methods of its work.

It should be borne in mind that this institution is a creature of the law. It was organized under an act of the Legislature establishing a Board of Children's Guardians in cities with a population of more than 75,000. The members of the Board are appointed by the Judge of the Circuit Court; they receive the custody of children only by the order of said Court and all their doings are subject to the approval of the Court.

CHARACTER OF THE WORK OF THIS BOARD.

The creation of the Board had in view a specific mission, which no existing agency could accomplish. Its purpose is not the ordinary relief of poverty; other charities provide for that. There is a greater misfortune for childhood than destitution; it is the peril of

inhuman treatment and the peril of a vicious criminal life. Many a child is the victim of brutal violence at the hands of drunken parents. Many are kept in such corrupting, degraded surroundings that, unless they are rescued, they are almost certain to swell the ranks of vice and crime. To save such children to a respectable and useful life, to protect itself from the evils of an increase of the dangerous classes, society has called into existence this child-saving institution, and clothing it with legal powers sends it forth to fulfill the office of a humane strong guardian of abused and imperiled childhood. In creating this agency society acts upon the recognized principle that no parent has the right to wilfully train a child to a vicious life or to keep it in conditions that must inevitably make it a curse and burden to the community.

#### NECESSITY FOR THIS WORK.

Every citizen would be glad to believe that there is no need in our city of such work as this Board is appointed to do. But we can not close our eyes to the evidence that such necessity exists; any one who will take the trouble to visit the quarters where the worst elements live will find sad cases which appeal for the help of this Board. The agents of our charity organizations can tell distressing tales of the corrupt and base influences amid which little children are living. They find some driven by drunken parents to beg for the support of the family; others, they find living in an atmosphere of blasphemy and pollution amid the contaminations of the grossest sensuality; not a few are found in houses of ill-fame.

What hope is there for childhood in such conditions



unless the State asserts its higher right to rescue such children from their evil surroundings and give them a chance for a respectable innocent life?

#### THE BOARD CRITICISED.

The members of this Board are aware that their work has not escaped criticism. It is alleged that the Board has powers that are liable to be abused and that in some instances the rights of parents have been disregarded. Attempts have been made to create prejudice against the Board, especially in connection with certain cases in which parents have sought to recover children from the custody of the Board.

It is freely admitted that the work of the Board is of a delicate character, requiring a careful and sympathetic consideration for the natural rights of parents as well as for the claims of unfortunate children. The possibility of making a mistake is admitted. But it is due to the Board to say that its fixed purpose is never to interfere in doubtful cases; it is unwilling to take any steps for the possession of a child unless, after investigation, humanity and justice clearly demand the child's rescue. In every case parental rights have a protection in the Court before which each case is investigated. No one acquainted with the facts can, for a moment, doubt that the Court is disposed to consider the claims of parents as favorably as possible, and to give every opportunity to defend them; but the Court could not be true to its sacred duties if it did not also have a sympathetic heart and a just judgment for a child exposed, body and soul, to ruin.

The Board is fully persuaded that any unfavorable judgment that may exist in any minds is due to a want

of correct information. The real facts which are the basis of its action in every case are not known or they are grossly misrepresented. It is most unjust to the Board to take the statements of unprincipled men and women rather than the sworn testimony of witnesses on whose evidence each case tried before the Court is decided. The Board therefore would urge upon the representatives of the press, if they wish to publish the doings of this agency, to be present at the sessions of the Court when these cases are investigated. There the facts are brought out which determine the action of the Court. If these sad stories of parental depravity, neglect and abuse of children could be made known, the public would know why a Board of Children's Guardians has been created and why it is at work in this community.

Inasmuch as the criticism of the Board has arisen chiefly in connection with the case of Gertrude Shutters, it is but justice to the Board that a brief history of that case should be given to the public.

This child was first found in the police court, having been taken into custody with her mother who was arrested on the charge of arson for having set fire to her furniture while she was drunk. Superintendent of Police, Colbert, requested the officer of the Board of Guardians to take charge of the child until after the trial of the mother, the father being out of town. The officer of this Board then proceeded to make investigation of the character of the parents and the manner in which the child was kept, and petition was filed for the possession of the child. It was reported in the neighborhood at the time that the father had abandoned the family. On that petition the case came up for hearing



before Judge Brown of the Circuit Court. The following is a synopsis of the sworn testimony in the case as taken down by the official Court reporter :

Mrs. — — testified that she lived next door to the Shutters over a saloon ; that Mrs. Shutters was frequently absent from home a week at a time ; a woman, James by name, of bad reputation, was often there ; once witness remembered the father, this woman and the little girl were drinking and carrying on, and she heard the father tell the girl, " I told you not to drink so much or you would be drunk ; " she was then throwing up and crying. When Mr. Shutters was away men visited his wife's room, generally during the day time ; a colored man came there often. Mrs. Shutters was often seen under the influence of liquor and drunk ; her reputation for virtue and morality is bad.

Mrs. — — testified she lived in same block with the Shutters for a month. Mrs. Shutters had men coming to see her nearly every day, and they were not all white ; a colored man who came would stay but a few minutes and she followed him down stairs when he left. Witness has seen the little girl acting improperly with boys ; she has seen boys about thirteen or fourteen or fifteen years old holding up money across the street and the Shutters girl with another girl, named Baker, would go over and take the boys back with them to the house ; once they sent for beer and stayed quite a while ; the mother was not at home. Witness has seen Mrs. Shutters under the influence of liquor ; did not see Mr. Shutters in that condition. One evening a man came to the Shutters and Mr. Shutters went away, leaving the man there ; he was gone about fifteen minutes and returned ; witness did not see him bring back anything.

Mrs. — —, living in same building, had seen men going to the Shutters when Mr. Shutters was away ; this occurred almost every day ; saw the little girl and the Baker girl smoking cigarettes and drinking out of a bottle something that looked like whisky.

Mr. — — had not seen Mr. Shutters drunk, but had seen him in a saloon. Mrs. Shutters he had seen staggering drunk and heard her using profane language ; a part of the time the little girl was in her mother's presence, and she used profane language in her mother's presence.

Mrs. — — testified that Mrs. Shutters' reputation for morality and virtue was bad ; men went to her house when her husband was away. Once a man went up and Mr. Shutters went down

and stayed about twenty minutes. The man was gone when he returned. Witness had seen beer going up there several times a day, and once saw little boys holding up money across the street from the saloon and then saw them go up and the Baker girl come down after beer. Witness has heard the little Shutters girl using profane language once or twice; has heard her use improper, vulgar language. On the night of the arrest she applied to Mr. Sweeny an epithet too vile to repeat. Mrs. Shutters used profane language; has seen her motion to men and go out sometimes to them: the little girl has been seen to go down after them and talk to them.

Mrs. ——— has seen the James woman at the Shutters house several times when Mrs. Shutters was away. One night she was there late and they were all drunk, and the little girl was drunk. Did not know that Mr. Shutters was drunk, but he looked like he was when he came down to my door; did not know whether the James woman ever stayed there all night or not; her reputation for virtue was bad.

#### RESULTS OF THE WORK.

It is to be regretted that a full and detailed account of the individual cases in which the Board has intervened for the rescue of children can not be given in the limits of an annual report. The simple stories would be the best illustration and vindication of the work done. We can hardly conceive of a greater contrast than that presented by a child living in the squalor of a wretched hovel or tenement room, abused by drunken or unnatural parents, contaminated by the vilest associations, and the same child, clean, decently clad, transplanted into a home of plenty, purity and love. Many such transformations have been wrought through the agency of this Board during the past year.

A very great improvement in the health of the children is observed. Many of them when received by the Board are suffering from diseases caused by filth, neglect and unwholesome food. Remarkable changes are

wrought in the physical condition of these children by cleanly habits and good food.

It is a special care of the Board, also, that its wards shall have the benefits of a common school education; while they are in the temporary home of the Board they are taught by a teacher kindly furnished by the School Board. When these children are placed permanently in homes it is always stipulated that they shall be sent to school during the school age.

It should be stated, in this connection, that the children of Catholic parents are placed, at first, in Catholic institutions and kept in them until good homes are found for them in Catholic families.

We give below sketches of a few individual cases to illustrate the beneficent work which the Board of Children's Guardians is doing.

#### CASES.

— — —, the oldest ward of the Board; mother keeper of a house of ill-fame, where both white and black congregate. The house was raided and the inmates, including this child, were taken to the station-house; the child was committed by the court to the care of the Board and in due time placed in a good home in the country. Last fall she was married to a respectable young man. On the eve of the marriage she said: "Had it not been for the Board of Guardians I would have been just what my mother is instead of the happy girl I am." She is respected in the neighborhood in which she lives and is happily married.

— — —, — — —, two girls, white, found in a negro house of prostitution. The mother of the oldest, a bad woman, died the day the house was raided; the children were given to the Board. One is now living with a most estimable lady, and is receiving an education; she is a consistent member of a church. Her ambition is to become a teacher. The younger child, nine years old, is in the home of a wealthy farmer, and is greatly beloved and receives every advantage. She has developed a wonderful talent for music — plays the piano, organ and violin, and has already developed some gift for musical composition.

— —, a boy of eight years, mother dead; boarded by the father in a house of ill-fame; sent by a cruel cripple with a wooden leg living in the house to beg on the streets; also sent to saloons for beer. If he complained he was beaten. Once he was knocked down with a stick and brutally kicked by the cripple's wooden leg. The boy's body covered with bruises told the story of violence to the court. An abscess formed in the boy's hip, and it was feared he would be injured for life. He was treated at the city hospital and when cured was placed in a good home, where he is doing well.

— —, girl, thirteen years old, one of five children, taken by the Board; the step-father is serving a five years' term in the penitentiary for criminal assault upon this child. After the man's conviction the mother abused the girl so that she was compelled to leave home. The child being committed to the custody of the Board was placed in the House of the Good Shepherd to receive medical treatment. Dr. Brennan treated her gratuitously and after several months she was cured and sent to a home in the country. She is doing well and is respected and loved by the family with which she is living.

— —, seven years, one of three children taken by the Board; the father a criminal and the mother a woman of bad character. On the promise of the father to live better, the child was given to him and taken to a distant city. One year after the father and grandmother were imprisoned and the child returned to the Board. The child had drunk beer daily, and when deprived of it grew thin; he was suffering from a kidney trouble. He had a morbid craving which good food did not satisfy, but he would eat potato peelings and scraps from the swill barrel. He is now in the home of a physician, where he receives the best of care.

— —, girl, six years—mother a drunken, abandoned woman. The child is unusually bright and attractive; is trying hard to overcome her bad habits, so that she may have, as she says, "a home and a mamma as other little girls have."

— —, six years, the youngest of two girls; parents bad and separated. The child was placed by the father in a family to board, and one evening when sent to a saloon was cruelly assaulted by some man and severely injured; she was taken to the city hospital, where after several months she recovered, and is now happy in a new home provided by the Board.

— —, six years; mother a bad character; she promised to reform if the child was restored to her. Upon this promise the child was to be restored to her in a year; but the mother's inclination to an evil life was stronger than her love for her child, and



after a few months she sunk into deeper degradation, if possible, than ever before. The grandmother, a respectable woman, has adopted the child. It may be remarked here that the Board gives preference to near relatives when they are suitable persons to receive a child.

Harry Bush, two years, abandoned. After being in a temporary home of the Board died February 24, 1893.

— —, girl, 10 years. The mother, when dying, told the horrible story of her husband's intimacy with the child. He was sent to the penitentiary for twenty-one years for the offense. She was sent to the hospital for treatment and is now in a good family.

— —, 7 years, one of five children deserted by both parents. With the exception of the youngest, a boy, all are in good homes.

— — is a bright, happy little girl, and on the occasion of the agent's visit sent the pennies she had, amounting to twenty-five cents, to the Board to be used "for some little girl who had no home."

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

The Board wishes to express its thanks to the Commissioners of Marion county for the new Home purchased for its use and now being fitted up with all needed conveniences, located at the end of Prospect street. This Home will add greatly to the facilities of the Board and enable it to give proper care to children before they are permanently placed in good families willing to give them the care and affection of a genuine home.

The Board also wishes to acknowledge the valuable services rendered by Drs. Brayton, Reed, Stilson and Brennan, in treating the sick children in its care.

Acknowledgement is hereby made of the very great favors of annual passes for our traveling agent by the following railroad officials: F. G. Darlington, Supt. P., C., C. & St. L. R. R.; Q. A. Barnard, Gen. Man. Peoria and Eastern, Big Four System; C. W. Fairbanks, C., H. & D. R. R.; G. L. Bradbury, Gen. Man. Lake Erie and Western Railway; R. B. F. Peirce,

Trustee I., D. & W. Ry.; W. R. McKeen, Pres. Vandalia Railway.

Mention should be made of the faithful services of the agents of the Board, Mr. A. C. Elster and Mr. J. F. Wright; they have performed their delicate and difficult duties with judgment and diligence.

The Board is also greatly indebted to Mrs. Kate F. Parker, who, during the three years of the Board's existence, has performed the arduous duties of secretary without compensation.

Mr. Clinton L. Hare continues to act as attorney for the Board. The duties of his position have commanded much of his time, and he has rendered faithful and valuable services to the Board.

#### DONATIONS.

The Board acknowledges the gift of \$52.50 from the Y. P. S. C. E. of the Second Presbyterian Church, also donations of clothing from the society just named and the Ladies' Union of Plymouth Church and the Society of King's Daughters; also the gift of a burial lot by the Crown Hill Cemetery Association.

These and other donations will appear in the treasurer's report.



TABULATED STATEMENT

*Of the work of the Board of Children's Guardians of Marion County, Indiana, for the year ending March 31, 1893.*

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No. cases investigated by the Board.....	104
No. children involved.....	189
No. cases rejected for want of evidence.....	9
No. petitions for custody filed.....	34
No. children involved in petitions.....	59
No. children given to Board .....	32
No. children returned to parents by Court.....	9
No. children removed from jurisdiction of Board by parents .....	7
No. cases in which the conditions have been im- proved by investigation and visits of Board's officer.....	54
No. children involved.....	101
No. cases continued for further investigation.....	7

The following disposition was made of the thirty-two children given to the Board by your Court:

DISPOSITION OF CHILDREN GIVEN TO THE BOARD  
DURING THE YEAR.

Placed in homes on trial .....	10
Boarded out in families .....	5
Placed in public institutions.....	13
Died.....	2
Ran away.....	2

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VISITING AGENT'S REPORT.

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No. visits to children .....	214
No. applications for children visited and investi- gated by the agent.....	158

## SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE BOARD.

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Number of children given to the Board since its organization .....	178
Placed in families and adopted .....	13
Placed in families and indentured .....	35
Placed in families and still on trial .....	35
Boarding, not finally disposed of .....	26
Sent to Reform School .....	6
Sent to Asylum for Feeble Minded Youth .....	6
Placed, temporarily, in Orphan Asylum, West-field .....	8
Placed, temporarily, in Catholic Orphan Asylum, Vincennes .....	4
Placed, temporarily, in St. Joseph's Industrial School .....	4
Placed, temporarily, with Sisters of the Good Shepherd .....	6
Attending Institution for Deaf and Dumb ....	1
Returned to parents by the court .....	2
Returned to parents by the Board .....	1
Returned to relatives by the court .....	2
Married .....	1
Died .....	9
Not found by the officers but given to the Board .....	5
Stolen by parents .....	9
Ran away .....	5

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This statement only shows the situation at the close of the year respecting the wards of the Board. It must not be forgotten that during the year there have been many changes. Sometimes a child has been two or three times placed in homes on trial; sometimes the arrangements for boarding have to be changed. Some of the

children have been sick and there have been changes necessary to restore them to health. In many cases requests have come from parties who have taken children to raise, asking advice as to how to act in certain emergencies, or requesting the influence of the Board or the presence of its representative, to aid in the proper control of the child in question, or to aid in some other direction.

Each application made to the Board for a child in its care has been attended to personally by the Board's representative, and rigid investigation is always made into the character of the applicants, and the conditions which will surround the ward of the Board are carefully studied before the application is passed upon. When a child is to go into a new home it is taken there by the Board's agent. All these are matters of expense and are to be carefully considered.

When children are placed in the custody of the Board pending the trial in court they are cared for by the Board sometimes for two or even three weeks before the final disposition of the cases in court. Frequently these little ones have to be clothed throughout, and always more or less of clothing must be furnished to them. If upon a final hearing in court, children are given back to parents, then there is no record which can be shown to the public of the labor and expense involved in such cases. Sometimes a case occurs requiring a heavy outlay for medicines. Such a case occurred recently demanding, in the judgment of the attending physician, a single article from the drug store which cost \$10. Yet, even with that and the best of care, the child died.

JUVENILE CRIMINALS UNDER FIFTEEN YEARS OF AGE ARRESTED  
IN THIS CITY DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

	WHITE.		COLORED.		TOTAL.
	Male	Fem'le	Male	Fem'le	
In 1888 .....	86	4	46	4	140
In 1889 .....	74	6	20	6	106
In 1890 .....	57	4	22	3	86
In 1891 .....	82	4	28	3	117
In 1892 .....	104	5	48	5	162

NOTE.—The arrests reported for 1892 include those for November and December, 1891, also those for the first three months of 1893. They are thus brought down to the date of this annual report of the Board of Guardians.

Number of arrests, six years old.....	1
seven years old.....	8
eight years old.....	21
nine years old.....	20
ten years old.....	57
eleven years old.....	59
twelve years old.....	94
thirteen years old.....	129
fourteen years old.....	217

## OFFENSES.

	Male.	Female.
Gambling.....	22	..
Assault and battery.....	54	1
Malicious trespass.....	26	..
City ordinances.....	94	..
Train wrecking.....	2	..
Sodomy.....	1	..
Vagrancy and loitering.....	71	1
Felonious assault.....	5	..
Drunkenness.....	5	..
Prostitution.....	..	14
Carrying concealed weapons.....	9	..
Fugitives.....	16	1
Burglary.....	19	..
Incorrigible.....	4	8
Petit larceny.....	163	17
Grand larceny.....	33	4
Robbery.....	14	1
Arson.....	11	..
Forgery.....	5	1
Riot.....	2	..
Car breaking.....	6	..

Commitments to the Reform School and Female Reformatory  
from the Marion Criminal Court:

	Boys.	Girls.
In 1888.....	21	2
In 1889.....	22	9
In 1890.....	25	5
In 1891.....	5	5
In 1892.....	19	11

## TREASURER'S REPORT.

YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 1893.

*Donations.*

April 1, 1892, to balance.....		\$ 973 92
May 6, Mrs. S. D. Yeaton.....	\$6 50	
Sept. 1, Mr. Wm. Rader.....	1 10	
Sept. 10, Little Nora Cottrell.....	25	
Oct. 29, Mrs. Geo. Evans.....	2 25	
Nov. 9, Miss Mary Talge.....	90	
Nov. 29, Mrs. Hilgenberg.....	5 25	
Dec. 17, Mrs. Anna Reaume.....	1 00	
Dec. 28, Miss Emma Chapin.....	10 00	
Feb. 9, 1893, Mrs. D. P. Barrier.....	2 00	
March 25, 1893, Mis Chloe Carson.....	5 10	
Sept. 20, '92, Y.P.S.C.E. 2d Pres. Church	52 50	86 85
Sept. 19, R. R. Co., balance 1,000 mile ticket returned.....		14 57
Dec. 10, Robert Neale returned.....		12 84
Dec. 10, Mr. C. L. Hare returned.....		5 00
March 3, 1893, County Commissioners.		3,531 20
Charity Organization.....		1,100 00
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		\$5,724 38

*Expenditures.*

Insurance.....	\$1 60
Groceries.....	8 88
Milk.....	10 60
Bread.....	10 45
Dry goods.....	349 40
Clothing.....	46 85
Repairs to house.....	5 50
Transportation.....	21 80
Printing and advertising.....	82 46
Agent's expenses.....	362 00
Agent's salary.....	600 00
Matron's salary.....	20 00
Attorney's salary.....	300 00
Special officer's salary.....	222 63
Domestic's salary.....	4 00
House furnishing.....	3 60
Drugs.....	34 60
Sewing.....	78 90
Miscellaneous.....	49 68
Board of children in temporary homes.	2,666 65
Balance.....	844 78
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	\$5,724 38

Respectfully submitted,

JULIA H. GOODHART, *Treas.*







